

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL GOTEBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0050

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW

SUBJECT: MODERATE PARTY HOLDS LARGE POLITICAL RALLY

1. THE SWEDISH MODERATE (CONSERVATIVE) PARTY HELD WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS THE "LARGEST INDOOR RALLY IN SWEDISH POLITICAL HISTORY" IN GOTEBO ON AUGUST 29. AN ESTIMATED 8-9,000 PERSONS JAMMED THE SCANDINAVIUM SPORTS ARENA TO ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUD PARTY LEADER GOSTA BOHMAN ATTACKS ON THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND ITS LEADER, OLOF PALME.

2. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, THE RALLY WAS VERY MUCH IN THE AMERICAN STYLE, WITH LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT FIGURES PRESENT TO WORK UP THE PARTY FAITHFUL. SOME 250 SWEDISH FLAGS WERE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED, AND AT BOHMAN'S ENTRANCE, THE ENTIRE HALL WAS DARKENED, WITH A SINGLE SPOTLIGHT FOCUSING ON THE PARTY' LEADER. BOHMAN'S ONE HOUR SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSES SOME 40 TIMES BY THE PARTICIPANTS, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN BROUGHT BY TRAIN AND BUS FROM OTHER AREAS OF SOUTHWESTERN SWEDEN.

3. IN HIS SPEECH, BOHMAN REITERATED THE 10-POINT PROGRAM OF THE MODERATES, INCLUDING A CALL FOR DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER, REDUCED MARGINAL TAXES, AND AN "INCREASED ROLE  
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FOR THE INDIVIDUAL". A NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, BOHMAN

PROMISED, WOULD SEEK A STRENGTHENING OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. HE DENIED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHARGES THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE TORN BY DISAGREEMENT, AND NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS -- AND PARTICULARLY PRIME MINISTER PALME AND LO LEADER GUNNAR NILSSON -- APPEAR TO BE AT ODDS CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED "MEIDNER FUNDS".

4. COMMENT: THE MODERATES -- WHO ARE ON A BARNSTORMING TOUR OF WESTERN AND SOUTHERN SWEDEN -- SEEMED CONSIDERABLY BUOYED UP BY THE SIZE AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE RALLY. THE RALLY'S SUCCESS HAS UNDOUBTEDLY STRENGTHENED THE CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AMONG OPPOSITION LEADERS IN THE AREA THAT THE NON-SOCIALISTS MAY BE ABLE TO END THE 44-YEAR-OLD ROLE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THE SEPTEMBER 19 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.  
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